

from expanding, innovating, and creating jobs. Admiral Mike Mullen, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has rightly called our debt “the single greatest threat to our national security.”

If we want to bring confidence back to our economy, jobs back to our citizens and hope back to our children’s future, we have to stop spending money that we don’t have. It is time for the Senate Democrats to stand up and join this fight.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o’clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 5 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

EXTENDING RONALD REAGAN CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Mr. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1308) to amend the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission Act to extend the termination date for the Commission, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1308

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. RONALD REAGAN CENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT AMENDMENTS.

(a) FINAL REPORT DUE DATE.—Section 7(c) of the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission Act (Public Law 111–25; 36 U.S.C. 101 note prec.) is amended by striking “April 30, 2011” and inserting “November 30, 2011”.

(b) TERMINATION.—Section 8 of the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission Act (Public Law 111–25; 36 U.S.C. 101 note prec.) is amended by striking “May 30, 2011” and inserting “December 31, 2011”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. KELLY. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1308 was introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) and is a straightforward bill to amend the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission Act by extending the Commission’s termination date, as well as the Commission’s final report deadline.

In June 2009, President Obama signed Public Law 111–25 to establish the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission. The purpose of the Commission was, and is, to plan, develop, and carry out activities that are both fitting and proper to honor the memory of our late great President.

President Reagan was born on February 6, 1911, and 2011 marks the 100th anniversary of his birth. Furthermore, the Commission was also tasked with being a crucial resource to Federal, State, and local government agencies as well as private groups as they go about planning and conducting events to honor President Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1308 is a very simple bill that extends the life of the Reagan Commission, and, unlike many prior Presidential commissions, costs the American taxpayer absolutely nothing. Mr. Speaker, I want to be very clear. The Reagan Commission does not receive a single penny of taxpayer dollars. The original bill and subsequent law prohibited the use of taxpayer money from going to the Commission, and this bill does not alter that provision in any way, shape, or form.

The Commission has and continues to operate solely on private donations—something I’m sure Mr. Reagan, as a careful steward of taxpayer money, would himself have been glad to hear.

The purpose of H.R. 1308 is to allow the hardworking staff and members of the Commission the opportunity to continue to provide their expertise and assistance as entities and groups all over the world continue to honor President Reagan.

The Commission has already played a major role in celebrations at the Reagan Library on the President’s birthday and has worked to establish a yearlong exhibit at the National Archives. Even the floor statements given by Members in this Chamber back in February were organized by the Reagan Commission.

While the Commission has contributed much to events and ceremonies over the past few months, many more celebrations and events are planned

throughout the rest of the year. In fact, multiple events to honor President Reagan’s role in the fall of the Soviet Union are scheduled this summer in Europe. Here in the United States, a Joint Meeting of Congress may take place this fall, and numerous other events will take place at the State and local levels all over our country.

Mr. Speaker, the Commission is currently scheduled to terminate on May 30 of this year, and this bill simply moves that date to December 31. In addition, H.R. 1308 moves the Commission’s final report deadline from the 30th of this month to November 30. Changing these dates would ensure that the Commission can help entities and groups all over the world deliver high-quality and fitting events to celebrate the life of a truly great leader and man.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1308, a bill to amend the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission Act. The bill would extend the termination date of the Commission by 7 months.

The Ronald Reagan Commission Act, which became law in the last Congress, created a Federal commission to honor and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ronald Reagan. The Commission is composed of Senators, Members of Congress, and other government officials, including the Archivist of the United States.

Importantly, in these challenging fiscal times, no Federal funds may be expended by the Commission to carry out its duties. Mr. Speaker, the Commission has been functioning for only 9 months, and there are important international and domestic events planned for this summer and fall commemorating President Reagan in which the Commission’s participation would be beneficial.

As such, I have no objection to the bill before us, which extends the termination date of the Commission from May 31, 2011, to the end of the year, and I would urge Members to vote for this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLY. I thank my colleague from Illinois. I appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from the great State of California, the sponsor of this bill and a member of this Reagan Commission, Mr. GALLEGLY.

Mr. GALLEGLY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1308, legislation to extend the termination date for the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission.

The work of the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission is not quite finished. That’s why this legislation is needed to extend the commission through December 30 of this year, allowing the Commission to deliver additional events for the public.